

RIVER LUGG INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD

Held on Thursday 10th July 2014 at 10.30 a.m. at 7Y Business Centre, Leominster

PRESENT:

Board Members:

Mr C Pudge – Chairman
Lord J Cawley
Ms Z Chilman
Mr K Mitcheson
Cllr C Pritchard
Mr G Sparey
Cllr J Hope
Cllr J Millar

Hoople Ltd Officers in Attendance

Mr G Evans – Responsible Finance Officer
Mr L Harrison – Area Engineer
Ms J Hemingway – Contract Handover Support
Miss K Allen – Clerk to the Board (minute taker)

Observers

Mrs E Patterson
Mr K Hammett

APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

Apologies had been received from Board Members Mr J Smith, Mr M Davies, Major James Hereford, Mr J Makin and Cllr F Norman, as well as Mr D Trumper of Hoople Ltd.

14/011 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

As a partner in the business, Ms Z Chilman declared an interest in the planning application for Thinghill Grange.

14/012 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed the two observers.

14/013 CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17TH APRIL 2014

Subject to the addition of Ms Z Chilman's apologies for non-attendance, the minutes of the meeting held on 17th April 2014 were unanimously approved as a true and accurate record.

14/014 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

A number of options for the Board's new logo were distributed. After some discussion, it was agreed that Hoople would revise the designs to include lighter backgrounds, and then ask all Board Members to vote. **Action: Hoople**

14/015 REPORT OF THE AREA ENGINEER/ENGINEER TO THE BOARD (INCLUDING RAINFALL DATA) **(RL/14/0000/06a-b)**

The Area Engineer presented his report on works carried out during the period, including a number of photographs that illustrated spraying activity. Spend to June was slightly under budget.

There was some discussion about the request for a contribution to the "Irish bridge" in Moor Brook and it was agreed to decline this request.

Rainfall figures were distributed.

A Board Member reported that an owl box provided by the Board was now occupied by tawny owls.

The Area Engineer then reviewed the planning applications.

He also reported receipt of an email from the EA regarding dredging control, and will formulate a response on the basis agreed by Board Members. **Action: Area Engineer**

It was confirmed that the EA regarded the management of bank-side trees on main rivers as a riparian owner responsibility and that it would only undertake maintenance works if there was an increased risk of property flooding.

14/016 FINANCE REPORT **(RL/14/0000/07a-f)**

The Responsible Finance Officer reported that he had slimmed down the reports but would be happy to reinstate the old format if required. There were no such requests, and the Chairman congratulated the RFO on the new layout.

The RFO was asked if the budget is profiled at all and advised that the maintenance budget is, but income is not. A Board Member pointed out that standard accounting practice was to recognise income at the point bills were raised.

A Board Member felt that the option to use internet banking is not very clear on the bills. The RFO advised that there are a number of options which could be introduced, e.g. Direct Debit, and a paper will be produced for the October Board Meeting; these comments will also be used to improve the forthcoming reminder. **Action: RFO**

The Maintenance Contract Sub-Committee had met on 1st July. Major Hereford is unable to fulfil a role on the committee and Mr M Davies will replace him. There is also uncertainty about Cllr Bowen's continued involvement as a Board Member. Cllr Millar undertook to investigate Cllr Bowen's position and find a Councillor to take his place if necessary. Cllr Hope will join the sub-committee if there are no other candidates.

The RFO updated the Board on the progress of a Freedom of Information request and advised that any costs would be unbudgeted. With regard to an invoice received, he was asked to obtain a breakdown of costs. **Action: RFO**

The Chairman then invited Mr Kevin Hammett, a ratepayer, to address the board and his situation was discussed, to be resolved by Hoople outside the meeting. **Action: Hoople**

14/017 UPDATE ON TRANSFER OF IDBS IN WALES TO NRW

A report from Natural Resources Wales/Environment Agency was tabled. The Chairman advised that Lower Wye's Chairman is quite keen. If the Boards were amalgamated, it would not be possible to levy different rates so this would have to be addressed. There are a number of options, which will be presented to the Board when the position is clearer.

It was agreed that a Hoople representative will attend the SWADA Branch Meeting on 23rd July 2014 and the Chairman will contact Major Hereford regarding his attendance.

14/018 CORRESPONDENCE AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The date of the ADA conference, 12th November 2014, was noted for diaries and a decision as to who will attend to enable places to be booked.

The Chairman had been asked to sign a letter giving Hoople representatives authority to act on the Board's behalf in Court matters, and the Board Members approved the signing of the letter.

The Chairman congratulated the Area Engineer on the success of the Annual Inspection.

The next Board Meeting will take place on Thursday 9th October 2014 at 7Y Business Centre.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 12.25 pm.

Chairman



Clerk



